

REMARKS

Support for the amendments to the claims

The present amendment to claim 1 seeks solely to better define the instantly recited invention by reciting one or more MPP having terminal modification and by incorporating from claim 9 into claim 1 the number of isotactic units in the instantly recited MPP copolymer. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in the instant specification at page 2, lines 23-24, at page 4, lines 26-28, and in original claim 9.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims ...and ...will stand pending in the instant application. No new matter is added by the present amendment.

Response to Election/Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-10 have been limited to examination of a single disclosed species, from among each of the instantly recited genera:

- A. The MPP modifying groups recited in instant claims 1 to 10, which are carboxyl, anhydride, hydroxyl and epoxy; and,
- B. the polymer or resin of instant claims 1 to 10, which are acrylic polymer, polyfunctional acrylic monomer, polyester, alkyd, acrylic modified alkyd, polyurethane, polyamide, polyamine, polyimine, styrene polymer, vinyl polymer, epoxy resin, and mixtures and combinations thereof.

Applicants hereby elect the anhydride species of MPP or MPP modifying groups for prosecution, with traverse, and, further, hereby elect the acrylic species of polymer or resin for prosecution, with traverse. Claims 1 to 10 read upon each of the presently elected species. Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for the following reasons:

The instantly recited invention can be searched in its entirety without placing an undue burden on the Examiner. The instantly recited compositions all should be classified in classes 523 and 524, where water or solvent is recited, and in classes 526 and 528, where no designated non-reactive materials are recited. In fact, a search of no more than 5 or 6 subclasses of the U.S. art should provide the Examiner with a reasonably thorough search of the art. In addition, the instant claims only recite a

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION...
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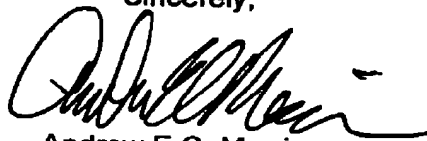
reasonable number of MPP modifying groups and a reasonable number of polymer resin species. Accordingly, the Applicants are entitled to have all recited species examined in the present application. 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. For these reasons, the Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and the withdrawal of the requirement of election/restriction.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the instant claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, he or she is urged to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Concurrently herewith, Applicants have filed a terminal disclaimer and the requisite fee. Please charge any additional fees to deposit account no. 18-1850.

Sincerely,



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